

# Differential scanning calorimetry of minerals of the dolomite–ferroan-dolomite–ankerite series in flowing carbon dioxide

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## Abstract

The dolomite–ferroan-dolomite–ankerite series of carbonate minerals has been investigated in flowing carbon dioxide using high-temperature DSC. Decomposition products were analysed by X-ray diffraction. The minerals studied included dolomite containing no iron, and members substituted by iron in the molar ratio range of 0.082 to 0.49. Complete resolution of the three main endothermic features was observed and enthalpy values  $\Delta H$ , determined from each. The individual and total enthalpy values showed a linear dependence upon the Fe and Mg content of the members across the series. A decrease in the enthalpy of decomposition occurs with increasing Fe content. The effect of Fe substitution was readily observed and the estimated limit of detection is less than 1% FeO. Accuracy of the measurements was limited by the purity of the minerals themselves.

**KEYWORDS:** dolomite, ferroan dolomite, ankerite, differential scanning calorimetry, X-ray diffraction, carbon dioxide.

## Introduction

THE dolomite–ferroan-dolomite–ankerite mineral series represents an important group of carbonates that have been studied by the well-established techniques of differential thermal analysis (DTA) and thermogravimetry (TG). The DTA curve for dolomite, the first member of the series, is well known and reveals two endothermic peaks in the presence of CO<sub>2</sub> at product gas concentration. The lower-temperature peak is believed to be associated with breakdown of the dolomite structure/magnesium carbonate component and the higher-temperature peak with remaining calcium carbonate. The mechanism of decomposition has been investigated extensively (Haul *et al.*, 1951; Kulp *et al.*, 1951; Haul and Heystek, 1952; Haul and Wilsdorf, 1952; Bandi and Krapf, 1976) and the subject has been reviewed by Otsuka (1986).

The dolomite–ankerite group consists of a

solid solution between the theoretical limits CaMg(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>–CaFe(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and contains increasing replacement of Mg<sup>2+</sup> by Fe<sup>2+</sup> up to a mole fraction limit of approximately 0.7 CaFe(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. Many ferroan dolomites have also been studied using DTA (Beck, 1950; Kulp *et al.*, 1951; Stadler, 1964; Smykatz-Kloss, 1964; Todor, 1976; Iwafuchi *et al.*, 1983; Otsuka, 1986). Essentially three endotherms, each accompanied by a weight loss, and an exotherm succeeding the first endotherm were reported in air.

Resolution of the endothermic peaks is complete in flowing carbon dioxide (Warne *et al.*, 1981) and confirms in detail the earlier reports that increasing Fe decreases the peak temperature of the first endotherm, and the peak area of the second endotherm increases. The various DTA curves reported however have been interpreted differently (Beck, 1950; Stadler, 1964; Smykatz-Kloss, 1964; Todor, 1976; Iwafuchi *et al.*, 1983; Otsuka, 1986)

Table 1 Chemical Analysis of Dolomite-Ankerite Mineral Series

Sample <sup>†</sup>	% CaO	% FeO	% MnO	% MgO	% CO <sub>2</sub>	Total
1 Dolomite Ca <sub>1.028</sub> Mn <sub>0.0016</sub> Mg <sub>0.970</sub> (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	30.78	-	0.06	20.88	46.99	98.71
2 Ferroan Dolomite Ca <sub>0.978</sub> Fe <sub>0.0816</sub> Mn <sub>0.012</sub> Mg <sub>0.929</sub> (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	29.00	3.10	0.46	19.80	46.56	98.92
3 Ferroan Dolomite Ca <sub>1.053</sub> Fe <sub>0.145</sub> Mn <sub>0.036</sub> Mg <sub>0.767</sub> (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	30.87	5.43	1.32	16.16	46.02	99.80
4 Ferroan Dolomite Ca <sub>1.017</sub> Fe <sub>0.226</sub> Mn <sub>0.059</sub> Mg <sub>0.698</sub> (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	29.43	8.37	2.15	14.52	45.41	99.88
5 Ankerite Ca <sub>1.024</sub> Fe <sub>0.417</sub> Mn <sub>0.031</sub> Mg <sub>0.529</sub> (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	28.83	15.02	1.09	10.70	44.18	99.82
6 Ankerite Ca <sub>0.997</sub> Fe <sub>0.418</sub> Mn <sub>0.032</sub> Mg <sub>0.553</sub> (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	28.13	15.11	1.12	11.21	44.28	99.85
7 Ankerite Ca <sub>1.037</sub> Fe <sub>0.490</sub> Mn <sub>0.019</sub> Mg <sub>0.454</sub> (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	28.93	17.51	0.67	9.11	43.78	100.0

<sup>†</sup> Carbonate minerals 1 to 7 are from: 1 British chemical standard dolomite (BCS 368); 2 Kalgoorlie, W. Australia; 3 Wallaroo, S. Australia; 4 Tintagel, England; 5 Teruel, Spain; 6 Gollrad Mürzsteg, Styria; and 7 Blue Rock Tunnel, Pa, USA.

Studies involving TG-DTA-EGA curves for ankerite in flowing CO<sub>2</sub> have been carried out by Milodowski and Morgan (1981).

The heats of decomposition of carbonate minerals, including dolomite and ankerite, have been determined (Reddick, 1968) by DTA in a dynamic CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) has not been used to any great extent in mineralogical carbonate studies to date although its applicability has been demonstrated (Dubrawski and Warne, 1987). Recently members of the dolomite-ankerite series have been investigated using this technique and X-ray diffraction (Warne and Dubrawski, 1987). The enthalpy of decomposition for each member of the series was measured in flowing nitrogen and found to decrease linearly with increasing Fe content. The present paper describes the study of this series in flowing carbon dioxide where complete resolution of peaks was expected to occur. In particular,

the enthalpy of the second endotherm, which is dependent on iron substitution, could be measured independently of the total enthalpy.

### Experimental

All DSC curves were recorded on a Rigaku Denki Thermoflex 8100 series instrument consisting of TG, DTA and DSC modular units. The sensitivity of the DSC unit ranged from  $\pm 0.5$  to 16 mcal/sec and was operative to about 950°C. Samples were heated in platinum cups covered with polished platinum lids. Calcined alumina was used as the thermal reference material. Experiments were carried out in high-purity flowing carbon dioxide (200 ml/min).

Calibration of the instrument was done using a series of simple salts (International Confederation of Thermal Analysis, ICTA, Standards) as described earlier (Breuer and Eysel, 1982; Dubrawski

and Warne, 1986). Consequently the 'instrument parameter'  $K$  was determined over the temperature ranges of 400–900 °C.

The minerals studied belong to the dolomite-ferroan-dolomite-ankerite series, for which chemical analyses were obtained as shown in Table 1. All samples were reduced to < 50  $\mu\text{m}$  particle size prior to thermal analysis. Sample masses

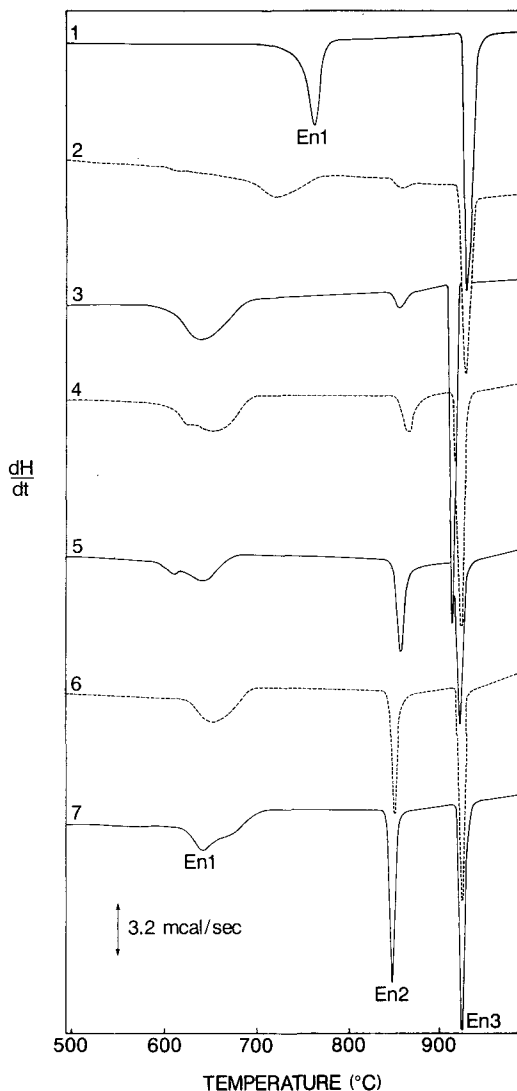


FIG. 1. DSC curves of the dolomite-ankerite mineral series in flowing carbon dioxide. 1, dolomite (8.02 mg); 2, ferroan dolomite 2 (7.27 mg); 3, ferroan dolomite 3 (7.36 mg); 4, ferroan dolomite 4 (8.66 mg); 5, ankerite 5 (7.14 mg); 6, ankerite 6 (7.73 mg); 7, ankerite 7 (8.63 mg). For clarity alternate curves are shown as full and dashed lines.

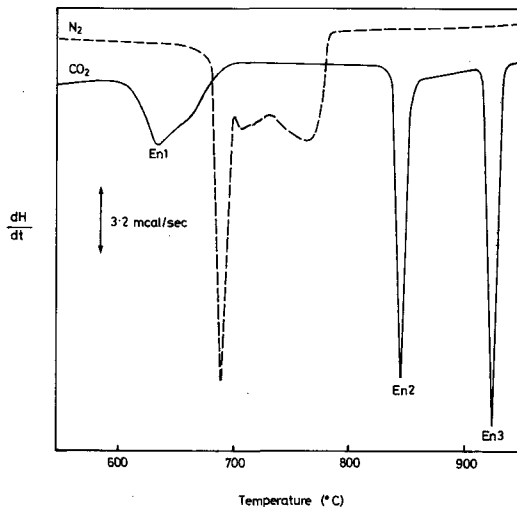


FIG. 2. DSC curves of  $\text{Ca}_{0.997}\text{Fe}_{0.418}\text{Mn}_{0.032}\text{Mg}_{0.553}(\text{CO}_3)_2$  in flowing  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2$ .

throughout were in the range 5–50 mg and the heating rate 10 °C/min. Chart speed was maintained within the range 5–20 mm/min. Peak areas were measured using a Tamaya Planix 7 planimeter, and base-lines were drawn according to the criteria established by O'Neill (1966), Guttman and Flynn (1973).

Calculated heats of reaction for dolomite and dicalcium ferrite were obtained from data stored in the CSIRO-SGTE Thermodata system. Measured enthalpies were obtained from the equation

$$\Delta H \cdot M = K \cdot A \quad (1)$$

where  $\Delta H$  is the energy (mJ/mg) for a given thermal process,  $M$  the sample mass (mg),  $K$  the 'instrument parameter' and  $A$  the peak area normalised to energy values.

Decomposition products were analysed by X-ray diffraction (XRD) using a Siemens D-500 diffractometer and  $\text{Cu-K}\alpha$  radiation. A graphite monochromator was employed to eliminate  $K\beta$  radiation and fluorescence.

## Results and Discussion

*DSC determinations in flowing carbon dioxide.* The DSC curves resulting from heating minerals of the dolomite-ankerite series in flowing carbon dioxide are shown in Fig. 1. Three distinct sets of peaks are obtained for each member with the exception of dolomite which only yields two. The effect of  $\text{CO}_2$  upon peak resolution is easily appreciated by comparison of DSC curves for the

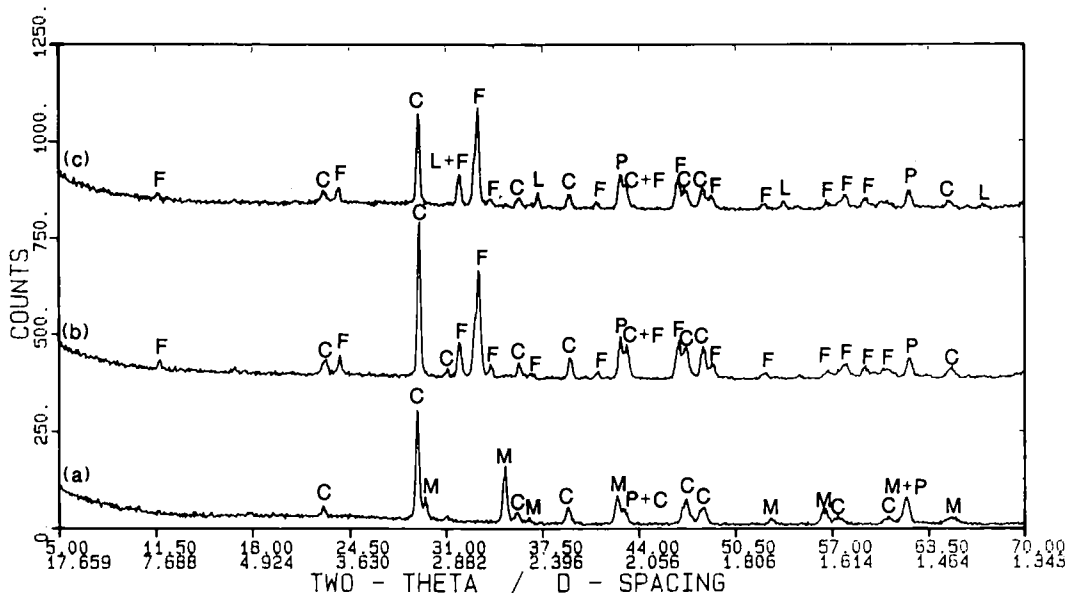


FIG. 3. XRD patterns of decomposition products from heating  $\text{Ca}_{1.024}\text{Fe}_{0.417}\text{Mn}_{0.031}\text{Mg}_{0.529}(\text{CO}_3)_2$  in  $\text{CO}_2$  to (a)  $750^\circ\text{C}$  (b)  $900^\circ\text{C}$  and (c)  $1000^\circ\text{C}$ . Phases observed: C,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ; M,  $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FeO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ; P,  $\text{MgO}$ ; F,  $2\text{CaO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ; L,  $\text{CaO}$ .

ankerite  $\text{Ca}_{1.037}\text{Fe}_{0.490}\text{Mn}_{0.019}\text{Mg}_{0.454}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ , obtained in  $\text{N}_2$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  and shown in Fig. 2. It is apparent that in flowing  $\text{CO}_2$ , compared to  $\text{N}_2$ , the first endotherm of the curve moves to a lower temperature and broadens into a peak and shoulder (En 1), while the second and third broader endotherms move to higher temperatures and become attenuated (En 2-3). This is the trend followed by all members of the series in  $\text{CO}_2$ . In  $\text{CO}_2$ , the temperature spread between first and last peaks is  $340^\circ\text{C}$ , while in  $\text{N}_2$  it is  $110^\circ\text{C}$ , representing a factor of three in enhanced thermal resolution.

Returning to Fig. 1, the three endothermic peaks for each mineral have been designated En1, En2 and En3 respectively. It is noteworthy that in  $\text{CO}_2$  En1 is broadened, sometimes appears composed of two peaks, or attended by a high-temperature shoulder in several instances, while En2 and En3 are single and fairly sharp endotherms.

The first endotherm En1 shifts to lower temperatures along the series, except for the last two high-Fe content members (Fig. 1, curves 6 and 7). Both the peak shape and temperature shifts differ from earlier work (Warne *et al.*, 1981) in  $\text{CO}_2$ , where only a single peak was observed and a consistent temperature drop across the series occurs. It would appear that the improved resolution with DSC indicates En1 to be the result of a composite

reaction, partially resolved, whereas in DTA only a single averaged thermal event is detected. This confirms the DTG results of Milodowski and Morgan (1981).

The peak temperatures observed for the series are shown in Table 2. En1 shifts from  $763$  to  $643^\circ\text{C}$ , En2 appears with iron substitution and occurs in the range  $850$ - $860^\circ\text{C}$ . The high-temperature peak En3 is also fairly static and with one exception occurs between  $925$ - $935^\circ\text{C}$ .

*X-ray diffraction analysis of dolomite ankerite decomposition products.* Following the DSC curves from Fig. 1 samples of the mineral specimens were heated in flowing  $\text{CO}_2$  to temperatures just beyond the completion of each thermal reaction En1, En2 and En3. The individual products were collected for X-ray analysis. As an example, Fig. 3 shows the diffraction patterns obtained from the decomposition products of  $\text{Ca}_{1.024}\text{Fe}_{0.417}\text{Mn}_{0.031}\text{Mg}_{0.529}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ . Pattern (a) corresponds to the products obtained at the end of En1 (approx.  $750^\circ\text{C}$ ), (b) to those after En2 (approx.  $900^\circ\text{C}$ ) and (c) to products from the completion of En3 ( $1000^\circ\text{C}$ ).

With the exception of dolomite, which yields only  $\text{CaO}$  and  $\text{MgO}$  as its products, the remaining ferroan-dolomite-ankerite minerals undergo a complex series of reactions. Earlier work (Kulp *et al.*, 1951, and Smith, 1972) has suggested that

Table 2 Peak Temperatures ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), and Calculated Enthalpies ( $\Delta H$ ) for Minerals of the Dolomite-Ankerite Series\*

Mineral	En1	En2	En3	$\Delta H_1$	$\Delta H_2$	$\Delta H_3$	$\Delta H_R$
	( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )			(kJ mol $^{-1}$ )			
1. Dolomite	763	-	935	97±4	0.0	192±4	289±8
2. Ferroan dolomite	720	857	933	110±5	4.5±1	168±3	283±9
3. Ferroan dolomite	633	855	916	91±2	13±1	166±6	270±9
4. Ferroan dolomite	628,658	862	923	79±2	29±3	152±3	260±8
5. Ankerite	609,641	855	922	58±3	71±3	104±4	233±10
6. Ankerite	656	850	927	61±3	65±3	112±3	238±9
7. Ankerite	643	850	929	49±3	75±2	101±3	226±8

\*Instrument parameter values (K):  $K_1$  determined to be in the range 1.34-1.18 for  $\Delta H_1$ ;  $K_2 = 1.46$  for  $\Delta H_2$ ;  $K_2 = 1.56$  for  $\Delta H_3$ .

the first reaction of these carbonates results in decomposition of both  $\text{FeCO}_3$  and  $\text{MgCO}_3$  followed by oxidation of  $\text{FeO}$  to yield, in  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{MgO}$  and  $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ . Milodowski and Morgan (1981) reported that  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  forms from the oxidation of  $\text{FeO}$ , and subsequently reacts with  $\text{MgO}$  to form magnesioferrite ( $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ). Magnetite is also formed. Based on these reports En1 is believed to consist of the following reaction steps (Earnest, 1984).

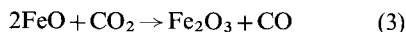
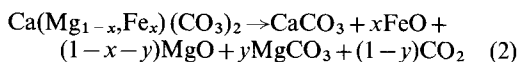
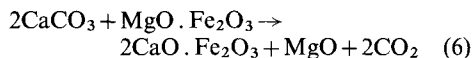


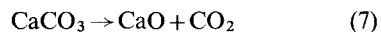
Fig. 3(a) reveals the products of En1 to be calcium carbonate, magnesium oxide and magnetite ( $\text{FeO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ). Peaks due to magnesioferrite and magnetite overlapped since their diffraction patterns are quite similar ( $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , major peak 2.53 Å;  $\text{FeO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , major peak 2.52 Å). The observed products from the dolomite-ankerite specimens agreed with the scheme proposed above. Residual undecomposed  $\text{MgCO}_3$  as indicated in equation (2) is believed to exist in solid solution with  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and is gradually eliminated at higher temperature (Earnest, 1984).

The products of En2 are shown in Fig. 3(b). New peaks were due to the formation of non-magnetic dicalcium ferrite ( $2\text{CaO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ). Slight

shifts in peak position suggested that some substitution by magnesium still remained. The appearance of this ferrite phase supports the claim (Milodowski and Morgan, 1981) that En2 results from the reaction,



Finally, En3 results from the breakdown of any remaining calcium carbonate to  $\text{CaO}$ . Thus,



The presence of  $\text{CaO}$ , however, was absent in some cases, since the decomposition products, on cooling in  $\text{CO}_2$ , recarbonated to  $\text{CaCO}_3$ . This explains the prominent carbonate peaks that appear in Fig. 3(c).

*Determinations of  $\Delta H$  and its relationship to substitution.* The peak resolution afforded by flowing  $\text{CO}_2$  allowed the application of equation (1) to each peak En1, En2 and En3, for which an individual  $\Delta H$  value was determined. From a calibration plot of the instrument parameter against temperature as described earlier (Dubrawski and Warne, 1986), a  $K$  value was obtained for each peak temperature. The values used are shown in Table 2, designated  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$  and  $K_3$ , corresponding with each endotherm. Enthalpy values determined from the endotherms were designated  $\Delta H_1$ ,  $\Delta H_2$  and  $\Delta H_3$  respectively and are shown in Table 2. They are the enthalpies corresponding with each of the three decomposition stages indicated in the

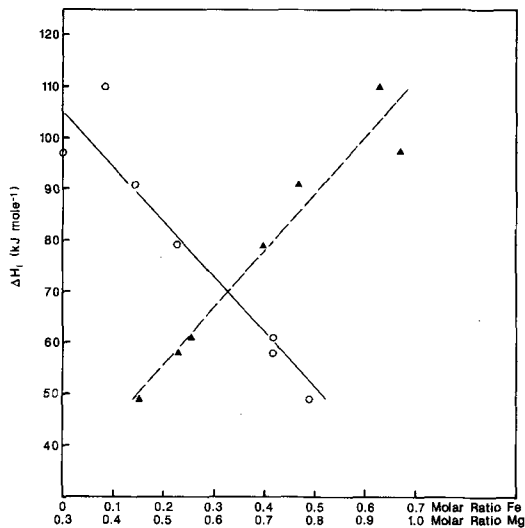


FIG. 4. Plot of enthalpy  $\Delta H_1$  versus mole fraction substituted iron (○) and magnesium (▲).

last section. The DSC curves for each mineral in the series were obtained from numerous runs (6–10) using sample masses in the range 5–25 mg. Enthalpy values were calculated from the peak areas of each curve and averaged. Earlier it was shown (Dubrawski and Warne, 1986) that for a range of minerals, heated over a wide temperature span, the precision in the measurement of enthalpy is about 5% relative.

The individual enthalpy values from each peak were found to be dependent upon substituted iron content. Conversely, a dependence upon magnesium also appeared since it decreased with increasing Fe content.

Fig. 4 shows a plot of  $\Delta H_1$  against molar ratio Fe and Mg. The value of  $\Delta H_1$  for dolomite is about  $100 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , close to the figure for magnesite ( $110 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) and indicates that En1 is linked thermally to breakdown of the  $\text{MgCO}_3$  component of the mineral. With the ferroan dolomite-ankerites En1 is broadened or split due to the presence of several thermal processes, as outlined earlier. A general decrease in  $\Delta H_1$  with increasing iron content is observed (increasing with Mg), although  $\Delta H_1$  for ferroan dolomite (No. 2) containing 0.0816 Fe content, is unexpectedly high. While En1 endotherms (Fig. 1) indicate a complex thermal process, they also differ from earlier reported DTA curves (Warne *et al.*, 1981) which revealed a single relatively sharp endotherm.

Fig. 5 shows the relationship of  $\Delta H_2$  with Fe and Mg content. It quantitatively establishes the linear relationship between Fe content and the

endotherm En2 first noted qualitatively using DTA (Warne *et al.*, 1981). As mentioned earlier En2 results in the formation of dicalcium ferrite (equation 6). The standard enthalpy for this reaction was calculated to be about  $330 \text{ kJ/mole}$ , on a molar basis of magnesioferrite ( $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ). Because of the various reactions occurring in process En1 it is difficult to establish the actual consumption of iron and magnesium from the parent carbonate during formation of the calcium ferrite. Nevertheless, let us assume that all FeO from the carbonate reacts to form  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and subsequently  $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ . This means that, say 0.5 moles FeO yield 0.25 moles  $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  (Mg is always in excess), then, using the molar ratios of Fe in the ankerites containing the highest Fe levels (namely samples 5, 6 and 7) and their corresponding  $\Delta H_2$  values, one can calculate the  $\Delta H_2$  per mole of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  (and, therefore,  $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ). Such calculations yield values between 300 and  $340 \text{ kJ/mole}$  for the three ankerites mentioned. While these figures are approximate and remembering the assumptions above, nevertheless the measured  $\Delta H_2$  yields figures that are consistent with the formation of  $2\text{CaO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  in process En2. It can also be said in relation to En2 that DSC is sensitive even to low levels of iron substitution. In Fig. 1, ferroan dolomite sample 2, containing 3 wt. % FeO, produces a readily discernible peak even at the least sensitive instrument setting. Since a tenfold enhancement of instrumental sensitivity is available, substitution of Mg in dolomite by iron in amounts below 1 wt. % should be detectable.

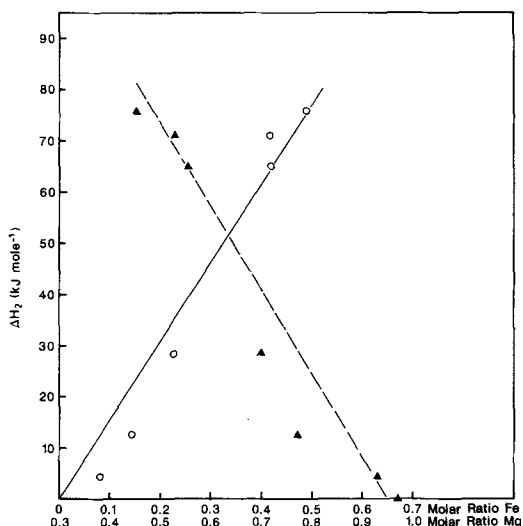


FIG. 5. Plot of enthalpy  $\Delta H_2$  versus mole fraction substituted iron (○) and magnesium (▲).

Table 3 Molar Ratio of Iron and Manganese in the Dolomite-Ankerite Series and Enthalpy ( $\Delta H_2$ ) of the Second Endotherm

Sample	Molar Ratio Fe	Molar Ratio Mn	$\frac{\text{Fe}}{\text{Mn}}$	$\Delta H_2$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )
1 Dolomite	0.0	0.0016	0.0	0.0
2 Ferroan dolomite	0.0816	0.012	6.8	4.5
3 Ferroan dolomite	0.145	0.036	4.0	13
4 Ferroan dolomite	0.226	0.059	3.8	29
5 Ankerite	0.417	0.031	13.5	71
6 Ankerite	0.418	0.032	13.1	65
7 Ankerite	0.490	0.019	25.8	75

It is apparent, however, that the early members of the series (Fe content 0.08–0.2) yield  $\Delta H_2$  values generally lower than expected for a good linear fit. A possible cause is the significant levels of Mn substitution relative to Fe that occurs in these samples. Table 3 shows the Fe and Mn content, and the ratio of the former to the latter. The ratio is smaller for the early members, about 4–6, as opposed to 15–25 for the later members of the series. The early members, therefore, react thermally as ferromanganous dolomites, which causes the determined enthalpies to reflect the value of this series. The decomposition of ferromanganous dolomites has been investigated by Iwafuchi *et al.* (1983) who has reported the formation of  $\text{CaMnO}_3$  and  $(\text{Fe,Mn})_3\text{O}_4$  in addition to the other expected products.

The En3 peak results from the decomposition of unreacted  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and a plot of  $\Delta H_3$  against Fe and Mg content also yields straight lines (Fig. 6). For dolomite, where the Fe content is zero,  $\Delta H_3$  is about 190 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, about 10% higher than the value for calcite. The value of  $\Delta H_3$  decreases with increasing Fe since less  $\text{CaCO}_3$  is present per mole of mineral due to increased reaction with magnesioferrite in the process that produces En2. In fact  $\Delta H_3$  is essentially halved in going from 0 to 0.5 mole fraction Fe substitution.

#### The enthalpy of decomposition $\Delta H_R$

The sum of the measured enthalpies  $\Delta H_1$ ,  $\Delta H_2$  and  $\Delta H_3$  for any member of the series yields  $\Delta H_R$ , the total enthalpy of decomposition for that member. From Table 2  $\Delta H_R$  for dolomite is calculated to be 289 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> which is in good agreement with the value determined earlier in flowing nitrogen (Dubrawski and Warne, 1987;

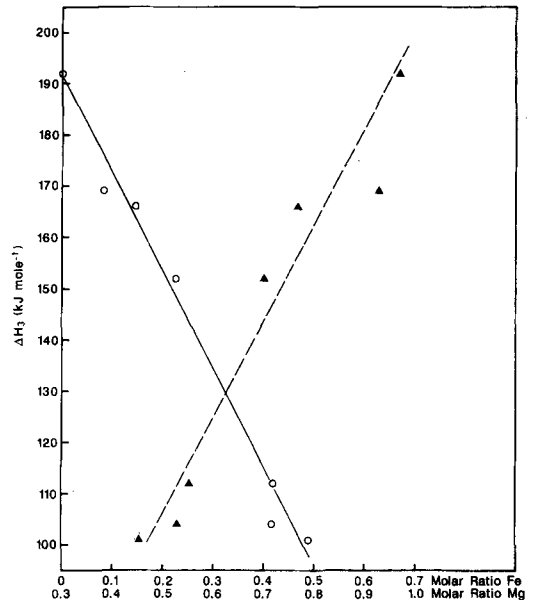


FIG. 6. Plot of enthalpy  $\Delta H_3$  versus mole fraction substituted iron (○) and magnesium (▲).

Warne and Dubrawski, 1987). The literature (Robie *et al.*, 1979) gives a value of about 280 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. The  $\Delta H_R$  values decrease with Fe substitution or conversely, increase with increasing Mg substitution, and a straight line is obtained (Fig. 7). Due to a solubility barrier, the end member of the series occurs naturally at 0.7 mole fraction  $\text{CaFe}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ . From Fig. 7 it can be estimated that the  $\Delta H_R$  value of this end member would be about 200 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>.

The results presented provided no mechanistic

details but are consistent with the proposals of Milodowski and Morgan (1981) and Iwafuchi *et al.* (1983). Due to the nature of the sequential reactions that take place in the breakdown of the dolomite-ankerites, the enthalpy values are necessarily linked. Thus,  $\Delta H_1$  and  $\Delta H_3$  mutually decrease as  $\Delta H_2$  rises, but the ratio  $\Delta H_3/\Delta H_1$  remains close to the value 2 throughout the series (the exception is ferroan dolomite sample 2). The magnesium oxide formed during En1 and increasingly consumed by substituted iron (to form magnesioferrite) is matched proportionately by the calcium carbonate consumed by magnesioferrite in the process associated with En2, and a stable ratio of values is obtained.

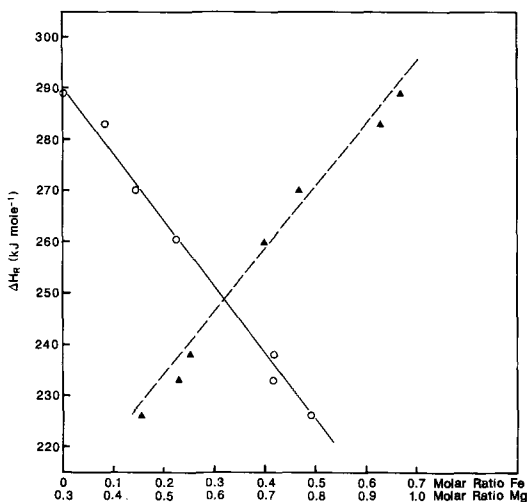


FIG. 7. Plot of total enthalpy  $\Delta H_R$  versus mole fraction substituted iron (○) and magnesium (▲).

It is clear that  $\Delta H_R$  or the other enthalpies, particularly  $\Delta H_2$ , can be used to distinguish members of the series and establish the degree of iron substitution. From Table 2, however, it is apparent that  $\Delta H_R$  and  $\Delta H_2$  are reliable to within about 4% and 5–20% relative, respectively, which therefore limits the extent to which close members can be distinguished. The accuracy of these values is dependent upon the purity (e.g. Mn substitution) of mineral specimens. No reliable enthalpy data, however, are available to assist in any comparison. Nevertheless, the results clearly show that DSC is quite sensitive to even low levels of substitution and to the effects of substitution (by Fe or Mn) and that the trend of measured enthalpies is systematic and useful to an understanding of these reactions.

## Conclusions

- (1) DSC can be used to measure enthalpies of mineral phases that otherwise are not available nor readily established theoretically. Thus, the iron-substituted end member of the dolomite-ankerite series is estimated to possess a  $\Delta H_R$  value of approximately  $200 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ .
- (2) The relationship between the determined enthalpy values and substituted iron content was found to be linear.
- (3) The effect of iron substitution was readily apparent from the DSC curves of the ferroan-dolomite-ankerite minerals. The detection limit for iron substitution is estimated to be below 1 wt. % FeO.
- (4) The accuracy of DSC measurements is limited by the purity of the minerals themselves. Determinations of  $\Delta H_1$  and  $\Delta H_2$  were occasionally variable, an effect attributed to variable amounts of substituted Mn.
- (5) The DSC curves and calculated enthalpies are consistent with the proposed mechanism (Milodowski and Morgan, 1981) for the decomposition of dolomite-ankerite minerals. Qualitatively some differences occur between the DSC curves and earlier reported DTA curves.

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